



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 25, 2003

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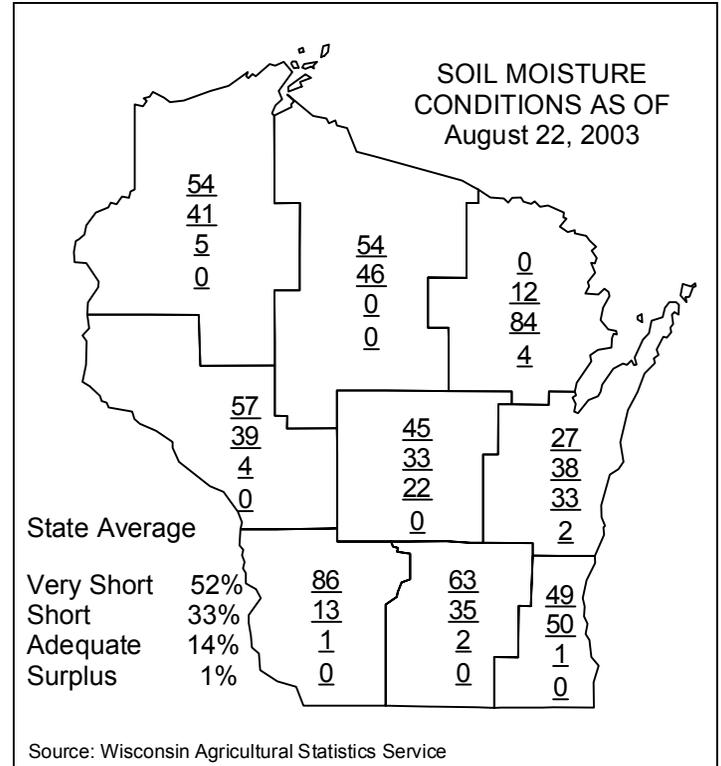
Dry Conditions Predominate

Temperatures were 4-9 degrees above normal for the past week, unfortunately most areas had no moisture to take advantage of the added heat units. Lack of topsoil moisture is showing up in stressed crops in many areas. There were scattered rains over the week, but some were accompanied by wind and hail damage. Large areas continue to miss any significant rainfall for dry crops. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated as 52% very short, 33% short, 14% adequate, and 1% surplus. Pasture feed condition dropped with the hot, dry week. Conditions were rated as 42% very poor, 35% poor, 16% fair, 7% good, and 0% excellent. Many areas are supplementing feed to livestock. Significant rainfall is needed soon to save stressed crops.

The **corn** crop condition dropped due to the prolonged dry spell. Fields that looked excellent a few weeks ago are now showing significant stress. Condition was ranked at 14% very poor, 18% poor, 33% fair, 30% good, and 5% excellent. Leaves are firing on lighter soils. Some fields are already being harvested as corn silage. The crop is 57% in dough stage or beyond, but many ears are not filling out completely. The **soybean** crop is also showing stress during pod development. Some farmers report lighter than normal numbers of pods, and fewer beans in those pods. Soybean condition was reported as 15% very poor, 16% poor, 32% fair, 28% good, and 9% excellent.

Third crop **alfalfa** has been of very good quality with the hot, dry days, but quantity has suffered with the lack of rain. Supplies of hay will be shorter due to early feeding of pasture animals. Third crop harvest was at 56% complete, the same as both last year and the 5-year average. **Winter wheat** harvest is mostly complete at 96%. Yields were reported as very good, with some yielding over 100 bushels per acre. **Oat** harvest is at 90% complete, compared to 93% for both last year and the 5-year average. Yields and quality were average to above average in most areas.

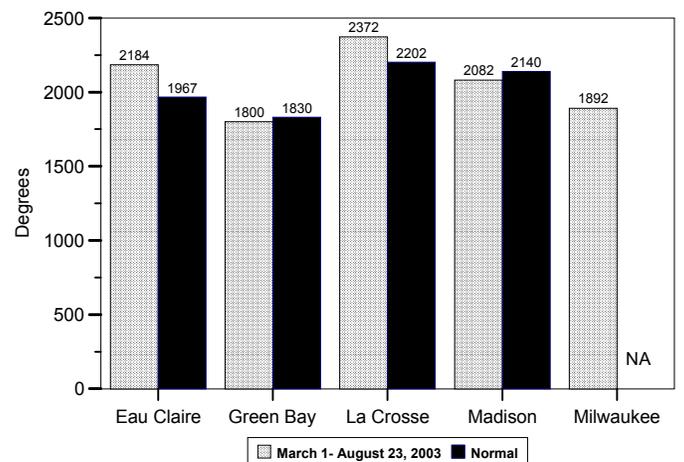
The **apple** crop is nearing early stages of harvest in Grant County. Late-planted **sweet corn** and vegetable crops are suffering in non-irrigated areas. **Potato** harvest continued around the state. Favorable weather conditions advanced the **tobacco** harvest in Dane County. Most areas of the state would benefit greatly from a large dose of rain as soon as possible.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 22, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	42	35	16	7	0
Corn	14	18	33	30	5
Soybeans	15	16	32	28	9

Wisconsin Growing Degree Days March 1, 2003 to August 23, 2003



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 24, 2003

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Winter wheat harvested	91	99	86	99	95	94	100	100	99	96	100	100
Oats harvested	85	77	82	97	91	85	99	92	96	90	93	93
Corn in dough stage	30	40	32	54	65	50	69	73	69	57	63	59
Corn in dent stage	3	4	3	6	3	2	17	15	10	7	20	17
Soybeans setting pods	90	90	80	91	88	80	96	97	91	89	92	84
Third cutting hay	50	40	47	63	50	41	69	76	57	56	56	56

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-J.D.: Rainfall was not wide spread, and many areas received little or nothing, which has hurt corn, soybeans, and hay yields.

CHIPPEWA-J.M.: Soybeans are turning yellow and shedding leaves, not from maturity, but from drought conditions. Reports of soybeans being chopped for silage. Some corn has fired above the ears. One report of corn silage was at 71% moisture.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Third crop alfalfa was of good quality, but short. Very little regrowth due to lack of moisture. Very dry here. Corn and soybean leaves are curling. Soybean pod set is below normal. Corn cobs are slow in filling. Pastures are not showing much growth. Small grain yields are near normal.

PRICE-M.P.: Corn needs rain badly, leaves are curling. Third crop alfalfa looks good. Excellent weather for hay making.

OCONTO-K.H.: Lack of rain and heat were recent concerns. Above average temperatures for about a week helped move corn and soybeans along. Third cut alfalfa harvest continues, as does straw baling. There has been some late summer alfalfa seeding also.

SHAWANO-B.R.: We are very fortunate to have ample moisture in a good portion of the county. This will give us one of the best yields of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa, ever in these areas. Most small grains are harvested with very good yields.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Bugs are eating the alfalfa, and it is too dry for corn and soybeans to grow. Crops just living on the dew. Some dead corn being chopped.

DUNN-S.S.: What hay is out there is being made, because the longer it stands, the less there is. There is no doubt hay supplies will be critical this winter, with most farmers already feeding. Some farmers are already filling silos with corn and others green chopping. Much corn is beyond help. The future for all crops at this time looks terrible.

GREEN LAKE-D.S.: The drought is taking its toll on the county corn and soybeans. Western part of county is getting hit and is expected to take a very high loss in yield. Crop quality is fair, but lack of rain has also caused yield to be lower than expected.

WOOD-M.L.: Abandoned hay fields are now being harvested to provide bedding and forage. Corn fields are being opened, and some soybeans are being chopped for forage.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Where treated for insects and blessed with timely rain, third crop alfalfa was reported better than first or second crop. Potato Leafhoppers continue to plague new and young seeding alfalfa fields. Late-planted sweet corn and table beans are suffering from the latest bout with drought. Most small grains were reported as better than average grain and straw crops.

IOWA-S.M.: Field corn and soybeans are in serious trouble. Lack of moisture is showing up in all fields. Pod counts in soybeans range from 2 to 38. Farmers are starting to chop corn silage.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Probably the worst looking crops in ten years. This drought really is bad.

DANE-C.B.: Quantity of third crop alfalfa is very short and many locations are having fourth crop alfalfa struggling to re-grow due to lack of rain. Growers need to begin checking the moisture of corn silage this week. Potato Leafhoppers are decreasing their presence in alfalfa fields this week.

JEFFERSON-M.H.: Corn is suffering the worst from dry weather. Soybeans still appear to be holding their own, but are beginning to show signs of moisture deficit stress. Hay is short in height and flowering.

WALWORTH-P.R.: Serious drought stress is causing soybeans on light soils to turn early. Some lodging of corn due to rootworms and a fair amount of smut. Wheat yields of over 100 bushels per acre were common. Third crop alfalfa is short because of lack of soil moisture.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 24, 2003

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Aug. 23	Mar. 1 to Aug. 23 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	90	64	94	53	77	9	2184	1967	0.00	6.77	-4.90	17.65
Green Bay	82	59	88	54	71	4	1800	1830	0.65	11.25	1.64	20.28
La Crosse	91	67	97	58	79	8	2372	2202	0.00	5.67	-5.67	15.69
Madison	88	61	94	54	75	7	2082	2140	0.02	6.70	-4.46	15.94
Milwaukee	84	65	96	63	75	5	1892	n.a.	0.00	4.40	-5.60	13.10

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.